

of the reader. A book written on this plan excels not in giving general results but in showing, by tracing the growth of our knowledge, how present-day conceptions have been reached. This historical analysis is at once the most interesting and the most elusive side of the study of a science. To use this form of presentation necessitates many detailed descriptions, but it is the distinctive achievement of this book that it is eminently readable in spite of the minute details often entered into. Considering the experience and reputation of the author and his long scientific career, one may regard the views assembled here as those most tenable in the light of present knowledge and of lasting value, because necessary for consideration in any further progress of the science.

W. H. F. A.

LORD LISTER. By SIR RICKMAN JOHN GODEE, B.T. Pp. 676;
33 illustrations. London and New York: Macmillan & Co.

IN these days of warfare and military surgery, when the treatment of infected wounds and the study of new antiseptics become of supreme importance, one is brought back vividly by this book to Lister's early day, when he began to deal with the ever-present foul wounds in civil hospital practice. Problems similar to those which he sought to solve present themselves under a somewhat different form, and after the interval of years, in which the modified form of antisepsis known as asepsis has been to the fore, we find the search for methods of antisepsis demanding increased attention.

This life of Lister, interesting as the record of a personality, is still more important as a contribution to our knowledge of the working out of a great idea. The author, a nephew of Lister, lived for many years in close personal contact with him, associating with him, both in the hospital wards and in the laboratory, so that he was well fitted for the task of biographer. In keeping with Lister's expressed desire it is chiefly a record of what he accomplished for science and for surgery, but we are also shown many glimpses of his daily life without which such a record would be incomplete. After reading of Lister's scientific activities, one may safely conclude that he would have made his mark in whichever branch of science he might have chosen to follow. Throughout his life he combined creative laboratory work with the practical problems which he sought to solve. Acquainted with microscopy from his earliest years, when his father was engaged in making great improvements in the lenses of the microscope, he used this instrument successively in normal histological, physiological, pathological and bacteriological studies, and in all of them he contributed something of value. Perhaps the most interesting part of the book is that dealing with the events leading up to his first successful treatment of a case by

the antiseptic method, using carbolic acid. This was in 1866, and this represents the beginning of his search for and study of new antiseptics, which continued practically to the end of his life. To everyone interested in the progress of medicine this volume will be of lasting value, constituting, as it does, the record of a great man who accomplished great results.

W. H. F. A.

A TEXT-BOOK OF OBSTETRICS. By BARTON COOKE HIRST, M.D., Professor of Obstetrics in the University of Pennsylvania. Eighth edition, revised. Pp. 863; 715 illustrations. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1918.

IN bringing forth the eighth edition of this valuable practical book the author has revised the text so that the subject matter has been brought up to date and due attention has been given to all of the worthy additions to the art of obstetrics that have been presented to the profession since the last revision of the book six years ago. There is little that a reviewer can say about a book of this kind that has long since become a favorite in the average medical library. While it is hardly so complete and exhaustive as one or two other text-books on the subject that have been presented in recent years, it is pleasing to note that the author is continually revising it, so that the book can always stand on its own merits rather than being obliged to depend on its early editions for its prestige. The literary style of the author, together with the many amusing anecdotes that are used by way of illustration, serve to make the text very pleasant reading, and one that should specially appeal to the medical student.

F. B. B.

THE TECHNIC OF THE IRRIGATION TREATMENT OF WOUNDS BY THE CARREL METHOD. By J. DUMAS and ANNE CARREL. Translated by ADRIAN V. S. LAMBERT, M.D., Acting Professor of Surgery in the Columbian University. Pp. 81; 11 illustrations. New York: Paul B. Hoeber, 1917.

THIS small book was written by Madame Carrel primarily for nurses, in order that they might have a clear, short account of the various details of the technic and an accurate description of the apparatus used in carrying it out. An appreciative introduction is furnished by the noted and still active American surgeon W. W. Keen. Those wishing to become proficient in the employment of this method of treatment will find this book devoid of confusing theoretical considerations. The stage of discussion concerning the value and importance of this new way of handling infected wounds having passed we are prepared to welcome such a brief, complete and authoritative treatise on the subject.

T. T. T.